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1944



1944

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER


TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1944

JAMES A. M. CLARK,  
M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.





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**COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

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TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE  
COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the state of the public health of the Borough during the year 1944. The Report, which is issued in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, is again abbreviated.

**Vital Statistics**

The Birth Rate again shows an increase, being 21.16 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 21.08 in 1943, the figures for England and Wales being 18.10 and 16.5 respectively, and 20.9 for the great towns. The Illegitimate Birth Rate also shows an increase, there being 93 illegitimate births as against 82 in the previous year. There has been a gradual increase in the Infantile Mortality figure since 1941, when we reached our lowest rate of 51.42 per 1,000 births. The rate for the year under review was 60.17 as compared with 58.30 in the previous year. This increase is accounted for by the sharp increase in the number of deaths of illegitimate infants, the infantile mortality rate of illegitimate infants being at the rate of 172.04 per 1,000 births, the corresponding figure for 1943 being 60.98. The infantile mortality rate for the country as a whole was 46 per 1,000 births, and 52 for the great towns.

The General Death Rate shows a slight decrease, being 11.89 as compared with 12.60 for the previous year. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 11.6, and 13.7 for the great towns.

### **Health of the Borough**

At the beginning of the year the Influenza Epidemic which had reached its peak in December continued throughout January, but in a milder form, six deaths being recorded during the month from this cause. Apart from this, the year has been a healthy one and there has been little serious illness. There has been less infectious disease, the number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified, viz. 127, being the lowest since 1930. The number of cases of Diphtheria notified, viz. 76, also shows a welcome decline and is the lowest figure since 1940. There have also been fewer cases of Measles and Whooping Cough.

### **Tuberculosis**

There has again been a slight increase in the number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified, viz. 136 as against 132; 29 cases of other forms of Tuberculosis have been notified as compared with 24. Happily, the Death Rate from this disease has fallen, 61 deaths being recorded from the Pulmonary form and 14 from other forms, as compared with 74 and 12 respectively in the previous year. This represents a death rate of 0.59 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 0.14 from other forms, as against 0.73 and 0.15 in the previous year.

**Respiratory Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)** also show a decreased death rate, being 1.81 as compared with 1.88.

### **Cancer**

There were 177 deaths from all forms of malignant disease as compared with 161, representing death rates of 1.72 and 1.58 respectively.

### **Venereal Diseases**

The number of patients examined at the special Venereal Diseases Clinic for the first time again shows an increase, the chief increase being in the number of cases not suffering from venereal disease.



Every endeavour is made to trace contacts but the information given is frequently of such a character as to be quite valueless. This subject, as also that of the defaulting patient, is dealt with in a later stage of this report.

## Hospitals

Our hospitals have suffered, in common with other hospitals, from a grave shortage of nursing and domestic staffs.

Owing to the lack of staff it was found necessary to close down the Tuberculosis Pavilion at Goscote Isolation Hospital at the end of December, and it has not yet been found possible to reopen. The position, in particular with regard to domestic staff, is worse now than it was six months ago. The closing down of 22 beds for the treatment of Tuberculosis was a very serious step to take, as the number of notifications of Tuberculosis is on the increase, but, unfortunately, it could not be avoided.

At the Manor Hospital we have been without a full complement of resident medical staff for some time. Dr. Weston, who was appointed Medical Superintendent in succession to Dr. Clayton, took up his duties in June and is proving himself a worthy and able successor to our old friend.

The Pathological Department organised in co-operation with the Pathological Department of the General Hospital, was in full operation before the end of September, and is proving of great value to the work of the hospital. The bulk of the equipment was supplied by the Ministry of Health.

Plans for the enlargement of the X-Ray Department have been prepared and these, we are glad to say, have received the approval of the Ministry of Health.

## Housing

The Housing position remains very acute. Much has been done to keep in repair houses which fall far short of modern standards, but which, by reason of the housing shortage, must of necessity

remain occupied for some considerable time. At the same time, there is a substantial number of large houses in the borough, requisitioned by Government Departments, which have been unoccupied for periods exceeding twelve months. It is unlikely that these houses will ever be used again for the purposes for which they were originally requisitioned, and their release would help to relieve some of the worst cases of overcrowding.

The Department has had an exceptionally busy year, there has been an acute shortage of staff, more particularly of medical and nursing staffs, and those left have had to carry a very heavy burden. To each and every member of my staff I desire to express my sincere thanks for their willing and devoted help.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees I also extend my thanks for their encouragement during a difficult period.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JAMES A. M. CLARK, M.D., D.P.H.,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

July, 1945.

## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

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### 1. General Statistics

Area in Acres .. .. .	8,780
Population .. .. . (At Census 1931) .. .. .	103,059
Number of Inhabited Houses .. .. .	23,311
Number of Families .. .. .	24,953
Population 1944 (estimated) .. .. .	102,900
Rateable Value .. .. .	£554,899
Sum represented by a Penny Rate .. .. .	£2,110
Population per Acre .. .. .	11.7

### 2. Extracts from Vital Statistics

Number of Births Registered .. .. .	2,177
(Legitimate : M., 1,080 ; F., 1,004 ; Total 2,084)	
(Illegitimate : M., 44 ; F., 49 ; Total 93)	
Birth Rate per 1,000 population .. .. .	21.16
Number of Deaths (M. 667, F. 556) .. .. .	1,223
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population .. .. .	11.89
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth :	
From Puerperal Sepsis .. .. .	Nil
From other Puerperal Causes .. .. .	1
Maternal Mortality per 1,000 (live and still) Births .. .. .	0.45
Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age .. .. .	131
Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births .. .. .	60.17
Infant Mortality (legitimate infants) per 1,000 births .. .. .	55.18
Do. (illegitimate infants) do. .. .. .	172.04
Death Rates per 1,000 Population, from—	
Respiratory Tuberculosis .. .. .	0.59
All forms of Tuberculosis .. .. .	0.73
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) .. .. .	1.81
Cancer .. .. .	1.72
Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases (Smallpox, Enteric Fever, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Membranous Croup) .. .. .	
	0.09

Death Rate from Diarrhoea and Enteritis of Children under 2 years of age, per 1,000 births .. .. .	6.89
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years .. .. .	15
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .. .. .	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .. .. .	4

### CORONER'S INQUESTS

143 inquests were held in the Borough during the year (94 males and 49 females).

POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS ordered by Coroner .. .. .	105
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SUMMARY OF INQUESTS	M.	F.
Death by Murder .. .. .	—	—
„ Suicide .. .. .	10	4
„ Manslaughter and Infanticide .. .. .	—	—
„ Self-induced Abortion .. .. .	—	—
„ Excessive Drinking .. .. .	—	—
„ Want of Attention at Birth .. .. .	—	2
Accident or Misadventure .. .. .	40	22
Death from Natural Causes .. .. .	41	19
Stillborn .. .. .	2	1
Open Verdicts .. .. .	1	1
Inquests adjourned .. .. .	—	—
	<hr/> 94	<hr/> 49
Inquests on children suffocated whilst in bed (accidental) .. .. .	—	—
Inquests on bodies of newly born children .. .. .	1	1



### Vital Statistics

The Birth Rate is 21.16 as compared with 17.6 in England and Wales as a whole, and 20.3 for the large towns.

The Death Rate shows a decrease being 11.89 as compared with 11.6 for the country as a whole and 13.7 for the large towns.

The Infant Mortality Rate is 60.17, as compared with 58 in the previous year. The rate for the country as a whole is 46, and for the large towns 52.

There was 1 Maternal Death during the year.

The Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis shows a decrease, 0.59 as against 0.73 per 1,000 of the population. The death rate from other Respiratory Diseases also shows a decrease, being 1.81 per 1,000 as against 1.88 in the previous year.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE IN WALSALL COUNTY BOROUGH, 1944  
As furnished by the Registrar-General

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Sex	All Ages	0-	1-	5-	15-	45-	65-
ALL CAUSES	.. .. .	M. F.	667 556	72 59	10 14	21 10	74 60	164 111	326 302
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	.. .. .	M. F. M.	— — —	— — —	— — 2	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	.. .. .	F. M.	2 —	— —	2 —	— —	— —	— —	— —
3. Scarlet Fever	.. .. .	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
4. Whooping Cough	.. .. .	F. M.	— 2	— 1	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— —
5. Diphtheria	.. .. .	F. M.	2 1	2 —	— 1	— 3	— —	— —	— —
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	.. .. .	M. F.	37 24	— —	— —	— —	18 19	15 5	4 2
7. Other Forms of Tuberculosis	.. .. .	M. F.	6 8	1 1	— 4	1 2	2 —	— 1	— 2
8. Syphilitic Diseases	.. .. .	M. F.	4 1	— —	— 1	— —	1 —	— —	— —
9. Influenza	.. .. .	M. F.	15 5	3 1	— 1	— —	1 —	6 —	5 3
10. Measles	.. .. .	M. F.	— 1	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
11. Ac. Poliomyelitis, etc.	.. .. .	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
12. Ac. Inf. Encephalitis	.. .. .	M. F.	1 —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —
13. Cancer, Buc. Cavity, Oesophagus and Uterus	.. .. .	F. M.	— 5	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 5	4 4
14. Cancer, Stomach and Duodenum	.. .. .	F. M.	11 18	— —	— —	— —	2 1	7 5	10 8
15. Cancer of Breast	.. .. .	F. M.	14 —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	5 —	8 —
		F.	16	—	—	—	3	5	8



### Infectious Diseases.

**Diphtheria.** 76 cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year as compared with 196 in 1943, being the lowest number of cases since 1940. There were four fatal cases as compared with eight in the previous year. 2,716 children (1,136 under the age of five years and 1,610 between the ages of five and fifteen) were immunised against the disease. It is estimated that approximately 59% of children under the age of five years, and 75% of children between the ages of five and fifteen have now been protected against diphtheria.

**Scarlet Fever.** 127 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, the lowest number of cases occurring in any one year since 1930. The disease was of a mild character and there were no deaths.

**Measles** was much less prevalent, the outbreak of the previous year continuing into the first quarter of the year. 278 cases were notified as compared with 700 in the previous year. There was one death from the disease.

**Whooping Cough.** 312 cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year compared with 292 in the previous year. There were four fatal cases.

**Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia.** 185 cases were notified during the year compared with 243 cases in the previous year. There were 92 deaths from this cause, compared with 174 in 1943. Influenza accounted for 20 deaths as compared with 79 in the previous year.

**Scabies** is still very prevalent. The number of children treated is less than in the previous year, 830 as compared with 1,067, but the number of adults is much greater, being 902 as compared with 229. Up to the middle of November the nursing staff of the Hatherton Road First Aid Post were responsible for the work of this clinic. When their services were no longer available, three of these nursing auxiliaries along with one male member were transferred to the staff of the Health Department, and so the changeover did not in any way interrupt the smooth working of the clinic.

**Isolation Hospital.** 306 cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, 75 cases of Diphtheria, 18 Diphtheria carriers, 76 cases of Scarlet Fever, one of Measles, and 136 of other diseases.



## ISOLATION HOSPITALS

Table showing cases admitted, deaths, case fatality rate, duration of stay, and percentage of cases isolated

Diseases	No. of cases notified	No. of cases admitted	Deaths	Mortality rate per 1,000 cases admitted	Total No. of patient days in 1944	Average duration of stay (weeks) of patients discharged or died	Percentage of notified cases isolated
Smallpox .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria .. ..	76	75	3	40.0	3153	6.2	98.7%
Contacts .. ..	—	18	—	—	450	3.8	—
Scarlet Fever .. ..	127	76	—	—	2263	4.2	59.8%
Measles (with complications)	278	1	—	—	23	—	0.3%
Erysipelas .. ..	37	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases .. ..	—	136	6	44.1	2389	2.7	—
Total .. ..	—	306	9	29.4	8278	5.6	—

# CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1944

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT												TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH WARD										Total Deaths *	
	At All Ages.	At Ages—Years											Bloxwich Ward	Leamore Ward	Harden Ward	Birchills Ward	Hatherton Ward	Paddock Ward	Bridge Ward	Pleck Ward	Caldmore Ward	Palfrey Ward		
		Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65												65 and upwards
Small-Pox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera (C.) Plague (P.)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	76	—	2	—	2	6	27	19	16	3	1	—	—	12	9	19	10	2	1	6	8	5	4	4
Erysipelas ..	37	—	2	1	—	—	2	—	5	4	6	14	3	7	2	10	2	1	3	1	3	1	7	—
Scarlet Fever ..	127	—	6	6	13	14	53	21	8	4	2	—	—	10	9	22	15	8	6	8	21	11	17	—
Typhus Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	278	20	29	37	25	30	97	29	8	2	1	—	—	47	20	58	8	6	10	19	64	25	21	1
Whooping Cough ..	312	42	50	45	40	49	83	2	—	—	1	—	—	28	19	67	11	11	11	19	60	33	53	4
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	1	—	—	2	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—

Cerebro-spinal Fever ..	6	—	1	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	2	—	—	—	2
Poliomyelitis ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum..	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	136	—	—	1	2	1	46	33	16	32	5	8	6	26	15	9	11	20	11	8	22
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ..	29	2	—	3	1	7	9	2	—	2	2	1	2	8	2	2	1	6	1	—	6
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia	185	19	7	9	10	6	13	5	12	14	21	15	18	66	9	5	8	6	28	15	15
Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-Encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	3	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	1,204	89	97	104	90	107	285	80	106	68	85	130	87	283	74	46	55	85	193	150	146
																					173

\*These deaths do not necessarily refer to the cases notified.

## **MANOR HOSPITAL**

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Although we were obliged to reserve the major part of our bed accommodation in anticipation of the admission of war casualties from the European theatre of war, and so restrict the number of beds available for civilian patients, the number of admissions to the hospital shows a considerable increase, 5,493 patients being admitted as compared with 4,798 in the previous year. This increase is largely accounted for by the admission of war casualties, approximately 700 patients being admitted direct from the Western Front.

The first convoy was received on August 3rd, and thereafter there was a steady flow, so that few of the 200 beds reserved for service men were empty for long periods. The admission of large convoys of sick and wounded men—and all convoys were received after midnight—imposed a big strain upon the staff. We are proud, however, to state that every member of the staff rose to the occasion and did everything in their power to make our war casualties as happy and comfortable as possible. That this was achieved is shown by the many letters of appreciation which have been received from service men after their discharge from the hospital. We are also happy to acknowledge and to thank those members of the British Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Brigade Nursing Services for the valuable help they gave in a voluntary capacity to the nursing staffs in caring for our service patients.

The Maternity Department has also had an exceptionally busy year, the accommodation on many occasions not being equal to the demand, 773 confinements taking place, as against 732 in 1943.

A comprehensive report on the future development of the Manor Hospital was submitted to the Hospital Sub-Committee for their information and future guidance.



### Statistics for the year ending 31st December, 1944

Total admissions	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,493
Patients in hospital on 1st January	..	..	..	..	..	..	253
Total number of deaths during the year	..	..	..	..	..	..	329

### Accommodation

Men	..	..	..	..	..	..	130
Women	..	..	..	..	..	..	147
Children	..	..	..	..	..	..	56
							<hr/> 333 <hr/>

plus 99 Emergency beds

Average number of beds occupied	..	..	..	..	..	258
Highest number of beds occupied	..	(20.9.44)	..	..	..	390
Lowest number of beds occupied	..	(17.6.44)	..	..	..	176
Surgical operations	..	..	..	..	..	1,281

### Maternity Department

Births	..	..	..	..	..	..	750
Stillbirths	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Doctor present at	..	..	..	..	..	..	115
Forcep deliveries	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Caesarean sections	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Deaths—Nil.							
Undelivered—nil.							
Number of ante-natal attendances	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,187

### Massage and Electrical Department

Treatments given :

Massage	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,201
Electrical	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,418
Radiant Heat	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,117
Ultra-violet Light	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,228

**X-Ray Department**

Number of films taken .. .. .	3,947
Number of screen examinations .. .. .	474
Number of treatments .. .. .	130
Pathological specimens sent to Birmingham University, etc., up to September 1944 .. .. .	285
Pathological specimens done in Manor Hospital Labor- atory since September 1944 .. .. .	763

**Out-Patient Department**

Consultations referred by outside Doctors .. .. .	2,822
Dressings .. .. .	18,196
New Patients in Casualty Department .. .. .	1,355
Dental attendances .. .. .	407
Ear, Nose and Throat attendances .. .. .	1,982
Gynaecological attendances .. .. .	507
Diabetic and Medical attendances .. .. .	804
New Fractures .. .. .	124
Attendances at Fracture Clinic .. .. .	853
Massage and Electrical attendances .. .. .	13,877
Total new Service Cases during the year .. .. .	70
Total Out-patient attendances .. .. .	40,803

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

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The demand for maternity accommodation continues and it has not been possible to meet all the applications for admission. This demand has been greater because of the lack of domestic help in the home and also the impossibility of obtaining the services of a trained midwife or maternity nurse. Owing to the difficulties of obtaining suitable domestic labour it has been impossible to put into operation any scheme of "Home Helps" or of "Domestic Helps."

Fifty per cent. of all confinements occurring in Walsall have taken place either in Manor Hospital or in the Maternity Hospital, Bloxwich, and the forty beds provided have been very fully occupied. 773 confinements took place at the Manor Hospital and 306 in the Maternity Hospital, compared with 743 and 291 respectively, in the previous year. 199 took place in private nursing homes and 1,062 on the district. There is one vacancy on the staff of district midwives.

The Ante-Natal Clinics have also been well attended : 684 mothers have attended the extern clinics and 737 the Ante-natal Clinic at the Manor Hospital. 46 ante-natal medical examinations were made by doctors of mothers referred to them from the clinics or by municipal midwives.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centres have also been well attended, 2,007 new infants having been brought for medical examination and advice, the total attendances being 34,273 as against 34,827 in 1943.

**Care of Illegitimate Children.** During the year, Walsall County Borough, as the Welfare Authority, became a constituent member of the Staffordshire County Council Scheme for the care of illegitimate children and their mothers.

Under this scheme, the Lichfield Diocesan Moral Welfare Association undertake the work envisaged in Ministry of Health Circular No. 2886. Close contact is established between the district Moral Welfare Worker and the staff of the Maternity and Child Welfare Department. All cases coming under the notice of the Moral Welfare Worker are brought to our Ante-Natal Clinics and, in appropriate cases, accommodation is found in one of the Homes run by the Association, where the girls are admitted prior to their confinement and remain for periods up to six months thereafter. The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee accept part of, or if necessary, the whole cost of their maintenance whilst in these homes. Every assistance is given to the mother to enable her to obtain an affiliation order, to find suitable employment with her baby, if possible, or otherwise to find suitable foster mothers, and advice given about legal adoption. When infants are placed out with foster mothers, the Health Department is notified, so that the infants can be kept under the supervision of the Health Visitors. The Scheme has worked exceedingly well.

**Premature Infants** are admitted to the Manor Hospital and occasionally to the Maternity Hospital, but the shortage of trained nursing staff in hospitals is the principal difficulty with which we are faced in dealing adequately with these infants. When it is possible to do so, it will be necessary to provide a special ward for the reception of premature infants.

A portable incubator and supplies of linen, etc., are available for the use of premature infants who are being kept at home. This outfit is supplied on the request of the doctor in attendance, or of the midwife.

**War-time Day Nurseries.** The five day nurseries in the Borough have again been very well patronised and have proved of inestimable value to those mothers who have taken up work as a war-time job.

The health of the children in the nurseries has been exceptionally good, the good meals and the regular routine contributing much towards the healthy and happy appearance of the children.



Table showing particulars of the cases dealt with at the Maternity Block, Manor Hospital, and at the Maternity Hospital at Bloxwich

DETAILS OF CASES	MANOR HOSPITAL	MATERNITY HOSPITAL
Number of Cases admitted during 1944 .. ..	773	306
Average duration of stay .. .. .	10 days	12.5 days
No. of Cases delivered by—		
(a) Midwives .. .. .	658	195
(b) Doctors .. .. .	115	111
No. of cases in which medical assistance was sought by a midwife in emergency .. ..	125	13
No. of Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia notified ..	1	1
No. of Cases of pemphigus neonatorum ..	Nil	1
No. of infants not entirely breast fed while in the Institution .. .. .	127	25
No. of Cases notified as ophthalmia neonatorum ..	1	Nil
No. of Maternal Deaths .. .. .	Nil	Nil
No. of deaths—		
(a) Stillborn .. .. .	23	7
(b) Within 10 days of birth and their causes, and the results of the post-mortem examination, if obtainable .. .. .	†21	* 2

† 11 died from Premature Birth, 2 from Inanition, 2 from Hæmorrhagia neonatorum, 1 from Congenital Heart Disease, 1 Hydrocephalic, 1 from White Asphyxia, 1 from Atelectasis, 1 from Intracranial Hæmorrhage, 1 from Spina Bifida.

\* 1 died from Premature Birth and 1 from Congenital Debility (Hydrocephalus).

**Table showing number of Midwives practising in the Borough  
and cases attended during 1944**

	Domiciliary Midwives	Midwives in Institutions	Totals
No. of Midwives practising in the Borough at the end of 1944—			
(a) Employed by the Council ..	11	9	20
(b) In private practice .. ..	6	—	6
	17	9	26
	Domiciliary Cases	Cases in Institutions	Totals
No. of cases in the Borough attended by Midwives—			
(a) Employed by the Council—			
(i) As Midwives .. ..	894	853	1,747
(ii) As Maternity Nurses ..	142	226	368
(b) In private practice—			
(i) As Midwives .. ..	26	51	77
(ii) As Maternity Nurses ..	—	148	148
TOTALS { (i) As Midwives .. ..	920	904	1,824
(ii) As Maternity Nurses ..	142	374	516
	1,062	1,278	2,340

**Attendances Registered at the Infant Welfare Centres**

CENTRE	Under 6 months		6—12 months		1—2 years		2—5 years		Total		New Cases
	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	
Pool St. ..	2461	689	1752	291	1040	348	1030	181	6283	1509	384
Field Rd. ..	3140	975	1786	388	1158	412	1903	410	7987	2185	518
Littleton St.	1867	708	1324	299	847	320	1393	219	5431	1546	308
Countess St.	3625	1126	2370	377	1489	509	1460	237	8944	2249	486
Ida Rd. ..	2419	991	1487	402	757	335	965	158	5628	1886	311
Totals ..	13512	4489	8719	1757	5291	1924	6751	1205	34273	9375	2007

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1944

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under One year of age

CAUSES OF DEATH	Total Deaths under One Year	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 & under 3 months	3 & under 6 months	6 & under 9 months	9 & under 12 months	Bloxwich	Leamore	Harden	Birchills	Hatherton	Paddock	Bridge	Pleck	Caldmore	Palfrey
Measles .. ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
Other Common Infectious Diseases .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea and Enteritis..	15	—	1	1	1	3	7	3	2	—	1	1	3	5	1	—	2	1	1	—
Premature Birth .. ..	35	26	4	1	—	31	4	—	—	—	1	3	6	4	5	3	1	6	4	2
Congenital Malformations; Birth Injury; Infant Diseases ..	29	13	4	4	1	22	3	—	2	2	1	6	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	6
Tubercular Diseases ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ..	24	1	—	2	4	7	8	6	2	1	—	4	8	4	1	1	1	4	1	—
Other Causes .. ..	22	3	1	3	2	9	5	4	4	—	4	4	7	1	3	1	1	1	—	—
TOTALS .. ..	131	43	10	11	8	72	28	16	11	4	7	18	27	16	14	8	8	17	8	8

Nett Births in the Year—Legitimate, 2,084; Illegitimate, 93.    Nett Deaths in the Year of Legitimate Infants, 115; Illegitimate Infants, 16.

## TUBERCULOSIS

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The work of the Tuberculosis Dispensary has shown a considerable increase during the war years, following national trends. A total of 646 new patients were seen at the Dispensary during 1944, of which 11 were transferred from other areas. 37 patients were examined at the request of Military Medical Boards desiring a special opinion as to the condition of the chest. The war-time increase is well shown in the following table :

Year	New cases examined	Diagnosed Tuberculosis	Transfers in	Total	Contacts examined
1939	355	83	5	360	21%
1940	320	101	8	328	16.7 %
1941	428	110	3	431	16.6 %
1942	552	115	7	559	13.0 %
1943	613	131	10	623	14.2 %
1944	635	146	11	646	16.7 %

It will be seen that the examination of contacts has kept pace with the number of cases diagnosed. The total number of patients suffering from tuberculosis shown on the dispensary register at the end of 1944 was 542, compared with 414 at the end of 1939.

On the other hand, the figures relating to deaths from tuberculosis have not altered very much ; indeed, the pulmonary death rate for 1944 has shown a rather surprising drop, as seen in the following table :



	DEATHS			Rate per 1,000 population	
	Pulmonary	Other forms	Total	Pulmonary	Other forms
1939	86	6	88	0.77	0.82
1940	73	7	80	0.71	0.76
1941	79	7	86	0.76	0.83
1942	67	13	80	0.65	0.78
1943	74	12	86	0.73	0.85
1944	61	14	75	0.59	0.73

It is probable that the increasing number of cases of tuberculosis now occurring will be reflected in a raised death rate in the next few years, but the above tables, taken together, suggest that there has been a definite prolongation of life for the tuberculous patient. This is due to several factors, chief of which is the fact that a larger proportion of cases are now seen by the Tuberculosis Officer in their earlier stages, when curative treatment is still possible. There are still too many cases appearing too late for any effectual treatment, but during the war years the nation has certainly become more mindful of tuberculosis and the need for early diagnosis and treatment.

The increasing number of cases suitable for lung collapse (pneumothorax) is very encouraging, and during the year this form of treatment was commenced in 23 cases admitted to the Sanatorium. After discharge, these patients attend the pneumothorax clinic at the Manor Hospital (Monday, 5.30 p.m.) for "refills." During the year a total of 36 patients attended this clinic. Refills are given at weekly or fortnightly intervals, and x-ray screening examinations take place once a month. Special appointments are made for cases presenting unusual features.

There were 130 admissions to the Sanatoria at Goscote and Pelsall during the year, but the work there has become progressively more difficult owing to increasing shortage of nursing and domestic staff.

Finally, in December, it was reluctantly decided to close the Sanatorium at Goscote owing to lack of staff. This was the more regrettable in view of the increasing number of patients in need of treatment.

During 1943, as a war-time measure, the Government introduced a scheme under Memo. 266/T, aimed at encouraging patients with early tuberculosis to accept Sanatorium treatment, and so more readily become available again to take their share in the country's war effort. In order to bring to light the early case, a system of mass miniature radiography has been introduced, through which large sections of the community (e.g. the employees of a large factory or works) can be selected for rapid x-ray examination on miniature film, and the abnormal separated out for further investigations. This is carried out by experts, and is free, voluntary, and confidential. The apparatus and staff required for this work is costly and, so far, mass miniature radiography has not been introduced in this area.

The financial provisions of 266/T, however, were put into operation in Walsall as early as June, 1943. A special assessment officer was given charge of this work and by the end of 1944, 56 patients had received these allowances. 24 patients were in receipt of allowances at the end of the year. Under the terms of the memorandum these were naturally early cases, and some dissatisfaction has been expressed by other patients, excluded from benefit on clinical grounds which they find difficult to understand. It is hoped that it may ultimately be found possible to extend the tuberculosis allowances to cover all types of the disease, early and otherwise, pulmonary and non-pulmonary, for the economic strain imposed by tuberculosis is common to all.

The increasing amount of lung collapse treatment, whilst proving of great benefit to the individual patient, brings in its train added responsibility for the tuberculosis service. The desired effect on the diseased lung is not always attainable by simple collapse methods and, in the future, with an increasing number of patients receiving this form of treatment, facilities for further surgical methods will become more and more necessary. This is very specialised work and thoracic surgery in the treatment of tuberculosis presents great scope for further development.

The following table shows the new cases notified and deaths during 1944 :

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1 ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
1— 5 ..	—	1	—	5	—	—	—	4
5—10 ..	1	1	4	3	—	—	1	1
10—15 ..	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
15—20 ..	3	14	1	—	—	6	1	—
20—25 ..	9	20	4	4	2	2	—	—
25—35 ..	21	12	—	2	5	9	1	—
35—45 ..	12	4	—	—	11	2	—	—
45—55 ..	17	5	—	—	9	4	—	—
55—65 ..	8	2	1	1	6	1	—	—
Above 65	3	2	—	2	4	—	2	1
Totals ..	74	62	11	18	37	24	6	8

91 patients were admitted to Pelsall Sanatorium during the year and 39 to Goscote. There were 13 deaths at Pelsall and 6 at Goscote.

136 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year as against 132 in the previous year and 29 of other forms as against 24.



## **VENEREAL DISEASES**

The number of patients attending the special Treatment Centre at the Manor Hospital has steadily increased during the war years, 386 new cases attending during 1944, of which 147 were found to be suffering from venereal disease and 239 were non-venereal. This is a considerable increase compared with previous years, e.g., similar figures for 1939 were : new cases, 150 ; venereal, 104 ; non-venereal, 46. It will be seen that the greatest increase is in the number of cases diagnosed as non-venereal. This is attributed chiefly to the wider publicity given to venereal diseases, especially through the Press, but is also partly due to the increased number of special examinations made at the clinic, details of which are given at the end of this report.

Of the new cases suffering from venereal disease, 94 came from Walsall and 53 lived in the County of Stafford. A total of 6,034 attendances were made at the clinic during the year. This shows very little increase over the corresponding 1939 figure and is due to the reduction of much intermedia teattendan cerendered possible by mproved methods of treatment.

The times of the sessions have been amended to suit the convenience of patients, and there are now three evening sessions per week, two for males (Monday, Thursday) and one for females (Tuesday), one morning session for males (Friday) and one afternoon sessions for females (Friday). This time-table has been found to work very well for most cases, some of which come from as far away as Lichfield and Rugeley. Difficulties in attendance owing to blackout, shift work, transport and domestic conditions have thus largely been countered. Arrangements have been made with the County of Stafford for the payment of fares to necessitous cases.

The problem of defaulters is still serious, though efforts are made to urge patients to continue to attend by writing, and, if needs be, by home visits. 39 cases ceased to attend before completion of treatment, but a proportion of these were probably already rendered non-infectious after attending the clinic. There is, however, a great difference between non-infectivity and cure, and tests of cure frequently take a longer time than the period of treatment, which, in early cases, fortunately for the war effort, has been very much reduced, as methods of treatment have steadily improved.



In regard to the tracing of contacts, the results obtained through new legislation (Regulation 33B) have been disappointing so far, though such powers should not be judged on the figures of a comparatively small area. The fact that certain compulsory powers, even if partial, now exist for dealing with venereal disease doubtless has its effect in stimulating attendance and preventing defaulting, and there is little doubt that when the man-power problem is eased, more time and personnel will become available for the searching out of defaulters and contacts. 17 notifications on Form I were received, mostly from Army authorities, but in no case were two or more forms received, and thus no legal action was taken. In over half the notifications, the information given was insufficient for proper investigations, and only two of these cases finally attended the clinic.

On the other hand, the contact-slip system, which has been in operation since the clinic opened, continued to produce a number of contacts, many of whom were found to be in need of treatment. 40 contacts were examined (30 female and 10 male) as a result of this form of persuasion. 12 contacts of servicemen being treated for venereal disease in the Forces were examined as a result of notification to attend having been sent to their wives. Five girls admitted to Beacon Lodge as a place of safety were examined at the request of the Justices, prior to being sent to approved schools. 22 single pregnant girls were examined for the Moral Welfare Association before being sent to suitable maternity homes, or where arrangements or the adoption of the infant were being made.

TABLE SHOWING THE WORK OF THE VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC DURING THE YEAR 1944

	Syphilis		Soft Chancres		Gonorrhoea		Conditions other than Venereal		Totals	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Number of cases on Register 1st January, 1944	67	64	—	—	61	32	31	43	159	139
Number of old cases returned for treatment or observation of same infection	2	6	—	—	3	1	—	—	5	7
Number of new cases dealt with for the first time	16	24	—	—	85	22	87	152	188	198
Number of new cases transferred from other centres	4	7	—	—	2	—	—	—	6	7
Total cases dealt with	89	101	—	—	151	55	118	195	358	351
Attendances—Medical examinations	1407	1115	—	—	1329	345	423	715	3159	2175
Irrigation, dressings	1	—	—	—	325	56	42	276	368	332
Total attendances	1408	1115	—	—	1654	401	465	991	3527	2507
Patients admitted to hospital	1	5	—	—	2	3	—	—	3	8
“In-patient days”	11	58	—	—	13	39	—	—	24	97
Walsall persons treated at Centres in other towns	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number of new cases attending during 1944—	24	16	—	—	70	—	151	—	—	—
Walsall	—	—	—	—	—	—	88	—	—	—
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	37	—	—	—	—	—

	Microscopical		Others for diagnosis of Venereal Disease	
	for Syphilis	for Gonorrhoea		
Pathological Work— Specimens examined at Walsall Clinic	14	1930		133

# **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR**

for the year ended 31st December, 1944

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TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE  
COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my Annual Report for the year 1944, giving particulars of the sanitary administration of the Borough.

The nature of the work carried out during the year has followed largely that reported upon during the years 1939 to 1943. Every endeavour has been made to maintain the sanitary service at as high a level as possible.

The position with regard to the maintenance of satisfactory standards of repair and sanitary accommodation to property continued to be difficult, both with regard to materials and labour. Considerable use was made in this Borough of the proposals contained in Ministry of Health Circular 2871, General Scheme for Repair of Houses, details of which are as set out in the Report.

The work in connection with the inspection and supervision of foodstuffs, including milk supplies, has continued to be heavy.

There have been certain staff changes during the year. Mr. F. Winder, Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector, resigned his appointment on his being appointed Chief Sanitary Inspector to the County Borough of Stockport. I should like to pay tribute to Mr. Winder's most efficient and loyal service since his appointment in 1939. His promotion was well merited. Mr. R. Johnson, of Watford, was appointed to the vacant position of Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector, and commenced duties on the 1st February, 1945. Mr. W. A. Wells, of Wednesbury, commenced duties as Sanitary Inspector on 14th February, 1944. Ronald Davies commenced duties as a Junior Clerk on 1st September, 1944.



The year was notable for the retirement of Mr. E. F. B. A. Miner, who in recent years had been engaged on meat inspection duties. Mr. Miner commenced duties with the Walsall Health Department in December, 1898, and reached retiring age on 11th November, 1942. At that time the Health Department was very hard pressed as to staff, and Mr. Miner offered to continue his services. The offer was most gratefully accepted, and Mr. Miner continued the heavy and responsible duties of meat inspection at the Government-controlled slaughterhouse until October 1944. He was then taken ill and had to go into hospital for a major operation. Happily, he has been restored to health, but was advised to rest, and thus terminated his appointment. I should like to pay special tribute to the magnificent help and loyal service which Mr. Miner has given to me since my appointment. The Health Committee at their meeting in December 1944 resolved :

“ That the Health Committee of the Walsall Corporation place on record their high appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the Health Department by Mr. E. F. B. A. Miner over a period of 44 years’ permanent service until his retirement, and two years’ service in a temporary capacity during war time, and hope that he will soon be restored to health.”

A copy of this resolution was engrossed and later presented to Mr. Miner by the Chairman of the Health Committee.

The following paragraphs give a brief survey of the work which it has been possible to accomplish during the year.

### **SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA**

The total number of visits and inspections made to all premises for the purpose of sanitary inspection was 12,439, which together with 757 visits made in connection with Civil Defence and Food Control gives a total number of visits of 13,196.

1,644 complaints were investigated, and 345 visits were made to infected houses.

Further to action instituted under the Public Health Acts, 320 houses were improved by repairs to the structures, 737 houses



received attention with respect to water closet and ashbin accommodation, drainage repairs, and abatement of other nuisances, a total number of 1,057 houses being improved during the year.

## HOUSING

At the 31st December, 1943, there were 423 houses in respect of which Clearance, Compulsory Purchase Orders or individual Unfit demolition orders were operative, still in occupation. 6 of these houses were closed during the year, the families being accommodated in re-let Council houses. Certain closed houses were reconditioned and re-let under licence. There are now 20 houses for which licences to re-let have been granted under Defence Regulation 68AA.

At the 31st December, 1944, there remained 423 unfit houses still in occupation. A large proportion of these houses are now controlled by the Council, having been acquired under Compulsory Purchase Orders, and many of them have had urgent works of repair carried out in order to maintain some degree of comfort for the occupiers.

The following list shows the progress made under the Housing Acts 1930 and 1936, to 31st December, 1944 :

Houses represented as unfit	..	..	3,030
„ closed	..	..	2,500
„ demolished	..	..	2,315
No. of persons displaced	..	..	11,071

Twenty-four houses were demolished during the year, these being in such a condition that it was impossible to regard them as being suitable for emergency accommodation.

During the year a Joint Report of the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Sanitary Inspector, entitled “Review of Walsall Housing,” was submitted to the Health Committee. The report contained the following details as to the present housing position, overcrowding, and the number of new houses likely to be required in order to deal with houses which may become the subject of action under the provisions of the Housing Acts.

## PRESENT HOUSING POSITION

At the present time there are in occupation in Walsall approximately 28,160 houses. These houses consist of the following groups or types :

(a)	Condemned houses still in occupation	...	...	423
(b)	Those houses of the working-class type which were built 70-100 years ago	...	...	3,508
(c)	That type of house which was built round about 1900, and which houses form the major portion of working-class accommodation	...	...	12,868
(d)	Council houses	...	...	7,951
(e)	Residential properties not of the working-class type	...	...	3,410
Total				28,160

The type of property most likely to be affected by action under the Housing Acts is that included in type (b), viz., those houses built from 70-100 years ago. These houses are affected in varying degrees by sanitary defects as described in the Housing Act :

“and which include lack of air space or ventilation, darkness, dampness, absence of adequate and readily accessible water supply or sanitary accommodation, or of other conveniences, and inadequate paving or drainage to courts, yards or passages.”

It is anticipated that each of these houses will form the subject of action under the Housing Acts. It is impossible to be definite on this point, as the condition of the house at the time the inspection is made, and the action proposed, are the governing factors. Taking into account the present condition of these properties, however, and the general standard of housing of the working-classes in the Borough, together with the application of the sanitary defects, it is estimated that there are—

2,108 houses which are in a condition at present the time to justify immediate representation as “ unfit ” (1st Programme) ;  
and—

1,400 houses which will be in such a condition as to warrant representation when the houses in the 1st Programme have been dealt with (2nd Programme).

It must be remembered that with each year of progress in elimination of slums, the general standard of housing for the working-classes tends to rise, which means that houses which, when the Housing Act, 1930, was first passed, were not then thought to be the possible subjects for action under the Acts, will, with the increasing age of the house and the raising of the standards, now fall within the terms of the Housing Act, particularly if no works of improvement have been carried out.

The type of house forming the larger part of Walsall's working-class housing accommodation, is that built round about 1900 (Type *c*). Each of these houses is self-contained, and usually has on the ground floor two living-rooms, scullery or wash-house, fitted with wash boiler and a sink and water laid on ; some food storage accommodation (not, in most cases, satisfactory) ; and outdoor sanitation. In most cases the front door of the house opens directly into the front living room. With regard to bedroom accommodation, approximately 4,153 houses have two bedrooms only, and 8,715 have three bedrooms, the third bedroom usually being in the form of a tenement over the scullery, and access to this bedroom is often through the middle bedroom.

Approximately 6,917 of these houses are built right up to the edge of the footpath, and in 5,951 cases there is a small forecourt in front of the house.

One unsatisfactory feature of the layout and design of these houses—which are built in blocks of from four to twelve, and are known as “ the tunnel back ” type—is the rear structure forming scullery and back bedroom, which interferes to some extent with the free circulation of air and the natural lighting of the back rooms.



In the main, these houses have no facilities for constant hot water on tap. Neither is there bathroom accommodation.

It is quite evident that this type of house will continue for a long time to form the principle part of working-class housing accommodation, but the houses lack very many of the amenities now considered desirable, and even necessary, in working-class homes. So far as existing legislation is concerned, however, there are no measures for the provision of these amenities, but only for the maintenance of such houses in sound structural condition.

The remaining housing accommodation is made up of Council houses and residential properties, regarding which it is not proposed to go into detail in this review.

## OVERCROWDING

It is impossible to give any accurate figures with regard to the existence of overcrowding.

There still remain to be dealt with a large number of known cases of overcrowding which were revealed by the Overcrowding Survey in 1936, and daily evidence is provided of cases where houses are now occupied by more than one family.

It is not possible to estimate how much of this present overcrowding is likely to remain after the cessation of hostilities, but it is safe to assume that probably 500 new houses, many of a large type, will be required for the relief of overcrowding in the Borough.

## NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES REQUIRED

It is now possible to provide a fairly reliable estimate of the number of new houses which will be required in order to deal with the houses likely to be the subject of action under the provisions of the Housing Acts.

It is not thought desirable at this stage to draw up any form of priority with regard to the provision of housing accommodation, or to indicate how soon the Corporation will be able to resume representation under the Housing Acts.



The immediate urgent need is to provide for the rehousing of families living in houses which were condemned before the outbreak of war, together with early provision of accommodation for those families whose housing conditions are extremely bad, although "official Housing Action" has not yet been commenced.

### New Houses Required—

To provide for families already living in condemned houses ... ..	423
To provide alternative accommodation for families occupying houses likely to be represented as "unfit" :	
1st Programme ... ..	2,108
2nd Programme ... ..	1,400
For the relief of overcrowding ... ..	500
	<hr/>
Total ... ..	4,431
	<hr/>

## MINISTRY OF HEALTH CIRCULAR 2871

### General Scheme for the Repair of Houses

The issue by the Ministry of Health of this circular was welcomed by the Health Committee, who had been seriously concerned with the lack of labour and materials available for the repair of house property, and in order to make the provisions of the circular known, meetings were arranged with the local builders and the Property Owners' Association, and Press advertisements were issued.

During the year Certificates of Essentiality were granted to private owners in respect of 2,688 houses, the total estimated cost of the work being £11,743 11s. 6d. Essential work had been completed during the year with respect to 2,324 houses, the total estimated cost of the work being £9,866 17s. 0d.

The totals at the 31st December, 1944, were as follows : Certificates of Essentiality issued in respect of 3,118 houses, the total estimated cost being £14,263 6s. 0d. Essential repairs completed in respect of 2,395 houses, the total estimated cost being £10,281 17s. 0d.

Although the practice of applying for Essentiality Certificates was not adopted by all local builders, it is quite clear that the provisions of the Circular have been useful in directing building labour to essential work.

### OVERCROWDING

As previously reported, it is impossible to give any reliable figures with regard to the overcrowding position. Overcrowding cases, many of a distressing nature, are constantly being met with, but owing to the shortage of housing accommodation it is not possible to institute satisfactory measures of abatement.

### WATER SUPPLIES

The water supply for the area is from the mains of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, and was generally satisfactory during the year both in quantity and quality.

There was some doubt as to the quality of the water taken from a main which supplied a feeding centre used by the Forces, but samples of the water obtained for bacteriological examination proved satisfactory.

The following is an approximate proportion of dwellinghouses supplied :

	Houses	Population	Percentage
(a) Direct to houses ... ..	27,060	98,600	96%
(b) Houses sharing standpipes or common taps ... ..	1,100	4,300	4%

A high percentage of the houses sharing standpipes or common taps are either already condemned or likely to be condemned within the next ten years.

### DISINFESTATION

The Disinfestation Service which was established some years ago has again had a very busy year in spite of staff difficulties. The Service does a most useful work in dealing with actual cases of infestation

and in preventing further infestation, particularly to Council-owned properties. It is the practice to make inspections at all Council houses which become vacant, and at all houses where exchanges involving Council houses are proposed, and if found to be infested the Council houses are properly disinfested before being re-let or before allowing an exchange to take place. The number of Council houses found to be infested on such inspections has this year shown a slight decrease on the percentage of those found to be infested in previous years. The furniture and effects of families rehoused from unfit houses were treated. The houses and effects of families accepted as Council house tenants are also examined, and, if there is any sign of infestation, the effects are treated before removal to a Council house. In such cases the privately owned houses are disinfested by the owners before being re-let.

It has been possible during the year to treat a limited number of occupied Council and privately owned houses found to be verminous.

In addition, fireguard sleeping quarters at thirteen business premises were disinfested at the request of the owners.

The services of the Department have also been widely used in respect of steam-disinfection of bedding used by Civil Defence Services, fire-watchers, and in connection with billeting.

As far as possible a regular service was maintained in many cases.

A total of 11,007 articles of bedding, etc., were treated during the year. In addition, a large number of uniforms and 60 gross of straw bands were disinfected by Formalin in the van which is specially adapted for this purpose.

#### INFESTATION ORDER, 1943

Several cases of rat infestation have been dealt with during the year, and methods of destruction recommended by the Ministry of Food have been carried out with success in such cases.

The major operation during the year was in connection with the Borough's sewers, and the following are extracts from a report which



I made to the Health Committee on 20th November, 1944, with regard to the treatment of rat-infested sewers :

“ On the 24th March, 1944, the Ministry of Food, Infestation Division, sent a Direction under the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939, and the Infestation Order, 1943, S.R. & O., No. 680, to the Council, to proceed not later than the 1st May to remedy infestation by rats in sewers, drains or culverts administered by the Council, in accordance so far as it is practicable with the procedure outlined in the Ministry of Food's Memorandum.

“ After reporting to your Committee and the Public Works Committee, authority was given to proceed with the work, and I beg to report herewith on the treatment of the Council's sewers.

“ The recommended equipment was obtained from the Ministry of Food, and the necessary bait purchased locally. The town was divided into five areas, and was further sub-divided into a total of 22 sections. A scale map for each section was provided by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, on which was marked the lines of sewer indicating the manholes, the manholes being numbered consecutively.

“ Before each section was treated it was surveyed by the Borough Surveyor's staff, who carried out the work of examining all manholes, loosening all covers, etc., so that the work of treatment could proceed without delay.

“ A start was made on four sections of the Borough on the 1st May, the date referred to in the Direction. The teams carrying out the work were drawn from the Borough Surveyor's workmen and the workmen attached to the Disinfesting Centre at Bloxwich, together with the assistance of some Civil Defence Rescue Service vehicles and drivers. Each team was fully equipped with the necessary tools and materials, and transport was provided for each team. The average number of manholes allocated to each team was approximately 100, the teams comprising three or four men, according to circumstances.

“ The treatment comprised the pre-baiting of the sewers at each manhole or baiting point on four consecutive days with



6 ozs. of damp sausage rusk, records being taken each day of the amount of 'take' at each manhole or baiting point. On the fifth day the unconsumed bait was removed, and 12 ozs. of damp sausage rusk baited with 5% by weight of zinc phosphide was laid at each manhole or baiting point. On the sixth day each manhole was examined and a record made of the poison take, indicated as 'Complete,' 'Good,' 'Small,' or 'No take'; the remaining poison bait was removed. After the first two areas had been done, it was found more convenient to record the poison takes on the Monday following the laying of the bait on Friday.

"For the first period of treatment the total number of manholes and baiting points examined was 2,218. The number not baited for various reasons (such as lampholes, inadequate benching or flooding) was 281. A total of 1,937 manholes or baiting points were baited for the whole of the first treatment period. The average pre-bait takes, based on a formula recommended by the Ministry of Food, showed that there were :

69 complete takes  
236 good takes  
790 small takes  
841 no takes

which meant that rats were feeding at a total of 1,096 baiting points.

"With regard to the poison baiting, 1,937 baiting points were used. There were :

28 complete takes  
177 good takes  
596 small takes  
1,139 no takes

which meant that rats were feeding at 801 baiting points.

"The number of bodies actually seen at the manholes when the poison take was assessed was 45.

"Owing to the adequacy of the manholes for use as baiting points, it was only necessary to fix three trays, and one of these trays was used for feeding purposes by rats.

**“ Calculation of Kill, First Treatment.** The Ministry of Food in their Memorandum lay down a formula which is said to give a rough but ‘ conservative ’ calculation of the kill, and the calculation of kill for the first treatment, using this formula, is at least 9,292 rats killed.

“ The first treatment of the sewers was completed by the week ending 24th June.

“ The Ministry’s Memorandum states that the residual rat population after the first treatment consists of very few survivors amongst those which had been induced to feed at the baiting points, and, in addition to those whose normal range of movement did not take them to these points. Time has to be allowed for those living up side pipes and dead-ends to expand their range of movement into the under-populated stretches in which the baiting points occurred. It is therefore recommended that a second treatment be given after a three weeks’ interval after the completion of the first treatment. This was not possible in Walsall owing to the limited staff available. The second treatment in two areas was eight weeks after the first treatment, and in three areas six weeks after the first treatment. The second treatment on Area 1 was commenced on the 26th June, the Monday following the completion of the first treatment.

“ The Ministry recommend a change of bait base and poison for the second treatment, and each manhole was baited with 8 ozs. of wet bread mash daily, and 16 ozs. of bread mash with barium carbonate as the poison bait on the day the poison was laid.

“ Procedure for the second treatment was as follows :

“ All manholes baited on the first treatment were baited for two days. Where no takes were recorded on these two days the baiting points were eliminated and further baiting unnecessary. Baiting was continued on those points where takes had been recorded in the manner set out for Treatment 1. This meant a great saving of labour, as, after the first two days, a rapid assessment was made, and it was found that one team was able to

continue the laying of baits and poison at the manholes or baiting points found to be requiring attention. For the second treatment there was a total of 2,259 manholes, 440 were not baited, and 1,819 were baited. The average pre-baiting takes were :

6 complete takes  
57 good takes  
229 small takes  
1,527 no takes

which meant that rats fed at 292 manholes or baiting points, as compared with 1,096 baiting points where rats fed for the first treatment. The poison takes were :

2 complete takes  
37 good takes  
148 small takes

This gives a total of 187 manholes or baiting points where rats took the poison baits, as compared with 801 places where rats fed in the first treatment.

“ On the Ministry’s formula for calculated kill, results show at least 1,780 rats killed for the second treatment. This gives a total estimated number of rats killed, based on the Ministry of Food’s formula, of 11,072.

“ The second treatment was completed by Saturday, 5th August

“ An analysis of the takes draws attention very sharply to the areas in the town where infestation is greatest. On the first treatment complete poison takes were recorded as follows : 1 in the Coalpool area, 2 by Reeves Street, Bloxwich, 1 in Mill Street, 1 in Birchills, 2 in Wolverhampton Road, 4 in the Pleck area, 9 in Palfrey and Caldmore, 1 in Emery Street, 1 in Birmingham Road, 1 in West Bromwich Road, and 5 in the Chuckery district. These complete poison takes were associated with complete or good pre-baiting takes, and are a good indication as to where the infestation mainly occurs. It is interesting to note that there were no complete takes of poison in the town centre.

“ On the second treatment complete poison takes were recorded at Walstead Road and Caldmore Road.



“ So far as the town centre is concerned, the watercourse from the Technical College to a point at the rear of Hatherton Street was baited. On the first treatment 95 baiting points were used : there were 30 good takes and 64 small takes. There was only 1 ‘ no take,’ so that rats fed at 94 of the baiting points. So far as poison takes were concerned, there were 9 good takes and 75 small takes, a total number of poison takes of 84. This was by far the highest percentage of takes in any of the areas treated. With regard to the second treatment there were 95 baiting points at which bait was laid. On pre-baiting there were 2 complete takes, 18 good takes, 65 small takes, and 10 no takes, thus proving that rats fed at 85 baiting points. On the poison baiting there were 5 good takes, 54 small takes, and 36 no takes, the total number of baiting points at which rats fed being 59.

“ A further detailed analysis will be made, but I think sufficient has been indicated in this report to show that the treatments were well worth while.

“ **Conclusion.** In conclusion may I pay a tribute to the extraordinary good work done by the teams of workmen. They became thoroughly interested in their work, and although difficulties were met with they were quickly overcome and from the beginning to the end of the treatments the arrangements on the whole worked smoothly.

“ Thanks are also due to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor and his staff for the excellent co-operation received at all stages, and to the Medical Officer of Health for permission to use the Civil Defence Rescue Service vehicles and drivers to help with the transport. .

“ The members of my own staff were also most helpful in assisting in the general arrangements and supervision of the treatment.”

At the end of the year steps were being taken to provide for maintenance treatment of the sewers, but staffing difficulties were likely to prove very difficult to overcome.



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

**Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.** The inspection and supervision of food continues to take a great deal of the time of the Sanitary Inspectors. Slaughtering has continued at the Government controlled slaughterhouse in Shortacre Street.

The following table sets out the number of carcasses inspected, together with particulars of carcasses or parts thereof condemned, and is in the form required by the Ministry of Health.

1944

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed and inspected.	4,185	2,630	7,611	25,742	316
<b>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	3	26	17	29	21
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	746	1,005	18	594	12
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with all diseases except tuberculosis ... ..	17.89%	39.20%	.45%	2.42%	10.44%
<b>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	12	92	1	Nil	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	566	1,219	28	Nil	31
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuberculosis	13.81%	49.84%	.38%	Nil	10.12%

(Total number of carcasses examined    ..    ..    40,484)

**Unwholesome Food Condemned.** The following table gives details of the nature and weight of foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year 1944, the bulk of the foodstuffs being surrendered to the Sanitary Inspectors at the time of inspection.

						Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Meat and Offals (at Government controlled slaughterhouse)	...	...	...	...	...	84	17	2	13½
Pigs' heads and offals (condemned during inspection of pigs killed by private persons	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	2	0
Tinned meats and other foods	...	...	...	...	...	3	18	0	1½
Sausages, polony, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	18
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	—	11	0	6
Rabbits	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	2	4
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	9
Split peas	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	20
Bacon and ham	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	1	1
Tripe...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	2	4
Eggs...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	19
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	2
Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	9½
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	7
Malt loaves	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	2	21
Sugar	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	2
Sweets	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	24
TOTAL						89	17	1	21½

Every effort was made to salvage for purposes other than human consumption the food condemned as unfit, subject to satisfactory safeguards as to the method of disposal.

Certain cases where foodstuffs not in a fit condition for retail sale, and which were in such quantity as to be useful for salvaging for other purposes, were referred to the Ministry of Food Salvage Division.

**Ministry of Food—Food Control.** As indicated in my Report of last year, the Sanitary Inspectors ceased to function as Food Enforcement Inspectors on 31st March, 1944.

## MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1926-43

### MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1936-43

The following samples of milk were obtained in the Borough during the year for bacteriological examination :

#### *Accredited*

Local producers ...	...	...	...	...	...	49
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#### *Pasteurised*

Local plants ...	...	...	...	...	...	214
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Outside plants ...	...	...	...	...	...	8
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#### *T.T. Pasteurised*

Local plant ...	...	...	...	...	...	12
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Outside plants ...	...	...	...	...	...	7
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#### *Sterilised and Heat Treated*

Outside plants ...	...	...	...	...	...	44
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#### *Raw*

Local farms ...	...	...	...	...	...	39
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Pasteurising plants ...	...	...	...	...	...	52
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TOTAL ...	...	...	...	...	...	425
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### MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1936-43

#### **Accredited Producers**

At the end of 1944 the number of cowkeepers licensed for the production of Accredited Milk was 5. Of this number 2 were licensed during the year for the first time, after their methods of production had been found to be of a sufficiently high standard and a series of samples had passed the Accredited tests.

A careful supervision was made throughout the year of all producers and regular monthly samples were taken. The results of these samples were as follows :

No. of Samples Taken	Passed	Failed
49	42	7

### **Pasteurising Plants**

The detailed supervision of the three licensed pasteurising plants has occasioned a great deal of work during the year and a large number of samples have been taken.

Towards the end of the year one dairy replaced their holder-type pasteuriser with one of the H.T.S.T. type, and before a licence was issued it was necessary to make careful observations and tests in order that the efficiency of this type of installation could be proved. A high percentage of the samples taken during the year were taken in connection with this work.

The results of these samples are shown in the list below :

	No. of Samples Taken	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised ...	214	152	62
T.T. Pasteurised ...	12	11	1
TOTALS ...	226	163	63

Many of the samples which failed the plate count test were samples taken in connection with the replacement of the pasteuriser mentioned above.

### **Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1926-43**

The supervision of milk production at farms within the Borough has been maintained during the year.

A total of 39 samples of raw milk produced in the Borough were obtained for bacteriological examination : 22 reached the standard for Accredited milk.



18 Samples were submitted for examination for tubercle bacilli and 2 were found positive. Action was immediately taken in each instance to trace the infected animals, and led to the slaughter of the cows concerned.

Structural repairs and improvements were carried out at a number of cowsheds during the year.

Considerable difficulty was experienced during the year regarding the keeping quality of milk sold by two retailers as "heat treated," the milk in question being obtained from a source outside the Borough. In the absence of any statutory standard for such milk, the tests applied were those contained in the Heat-treated Milk (Prescribed Tests) Order, 1944.

These tests revealed that in most cases the milk had received adequate heat treatment, but that the keeping quality was below that prescribed by the Order.

Representations were made by the Health Committee to the appropriate Local Authority, and in one case the retailer concerned appeared before the Health Committee. This retailer has since carried out improvements at his dairy premises and has provided additional equipment.

### SAMPLING

Mr. F. E. Thompson, A.R.C.S., F.I.C., submits the following particulars of the samples which have been analysed under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act of 1926.

203 samples were submitted for analysis, 85 were formal samples and 115 were informal. Of these, 11 (equivalent to 5.4%) were adulterated.

92 milks were received of which 11 (equivalent to 11.9%) were adulterated.

7 samples of fertilisers taken under the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926, were found to be satisfactory.

The 11 adulterated milk samples were from one source, initial samples showing very slight deficiencies of solids not fat, and appeal-to-cow samples also showed slight deficiencies of solids not fat. There was no case for action.

### CONCLUSION

May I again pay tribute to the continued support of the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and to the help and co-operation of the Medical Officer of Health. To my colleagues in the Health Department who have given unstinting service, I tender my sincere thanks.

Yours obediently,

C. A. STANSBURY,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

# WALSALL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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## **REPORT** **OF THE** **SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER**

For the Year ended 31st December, 1944

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MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Report on the School Medical Service for the year ended 31st December, 1944. The Report is drawn up in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Education.

### **1. STAFF.**

As in previous years, the work of the School Medical Service has been seriously curtailed by reason of the shortage of both medical and nursing staffs. Dr. Adam resigned her appointment on medical grounds early in the year and we were without any school medical staff from April until June when Dr. Weigert took up his appointment as Assistant Medical Officer for schools and maternity and child welfare work. A second vacancy in the staff was not filled until July when Dr. Harmer took up his appointment, which he held for four months, resigning to take up an appointment in the Services. Thus we had a full medical staff for a period of only four months.

There are three vacancies for Health Visitors which we have been unable to fill, and the staff of school dental surgeons remains at two.

In spite of this, we were able to carry out a good number of medical inspections in the schools, but we were unable to carry out our full programme for the immunisation of children in all the schools of the borough.

### **2. PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELFARE.**

The health of the school child remains good and there is no evidence of any malnutrition. Of 4,600 children inspected in the

routine age groups, only three were reported as being badly nourished, and 365 or 8% where the nutrition was described as being slightly subnormal. Minor infections remain common, particularly skin affections, e.g. impetigo, etc. Reference has been made in previous reports to the late hours at which so many school children go to bed, and we can point to no improvement in this direction.

During the year 25 school children died, the causes of death being:— Accidental causes 7, Diphtheria, Nephritis, 3 each, Surgical Tuberculosis 2, Pneumonia, Appendicitis, Heart Disease, Epilepsy, Acute Rheumatism, Streptococcal Tonsillitis, Streptococcal Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, Tumor of Brain, Meningeal Abscess, Leukaemia, 1 each.

### 3. SCHOOL CLINICS.

Owing to the shortage of medical staff, it has been found necessary to make some alteration in the medical sessions at the minor ailments clinics. Medical sessions are now held once weekly — at Bradford Street on Monday mornings, at Littleton Street on Tuesday mornings, and at Field Road on Friday afternoons. In addition the medical staff hold sessions at Bradford Street and at Littleton Street on Saturday mornings for the examination of children found to require a more detailed examination than can be given at the routine inspections in the school. All other sessions are conducted by the school nurses.

Dr. Gillan was appointed Ophthalmic Specialist and he conducts a weekly eye session at Bradford Street on Thursday mornings. 19 cases of squint were referred to the Orthoptic Clinic, Walsall General Hospital, under the arrangements recorded in last year's report.

### 4. UNCLEANLINESS.

During the year 830 children received treatment at the Scabies Clinic, Hatherton Road, 439 children being referred from the School Clinic.

We are now receiving a much greater measure of co-operation from the parents and many more adults were treated. The results have been most satisfactory.

The same attention has been paid as in previous years to the cleanliness of children attending the elementary schools, particular attention being paid to those schools known from past experience to have a high percentage of children with dirty heads. It has also been possible to give more attention to the other schools in the borough.



In my last year's report I gave particulars of certain schools where the rate of vermin infestation was high. This year these schools were visited in most cases at weekly or fortnightly intervals so that the children were kept under continuous supervision. By this means the number of defaulters has been kept within limits. Without these regular visits of inspection, the rate of infestation would quickly rise. The source of infestation and re-infestation is undoubtedly in the home, and it is generally the adolescent sister who is at fault.

In the first senior girls school to which reference was made in last year's report, 7% of the 286 girls inspected in January had dirty heads. After the summer vacation when a survey was made in August, 16.9% of the girls inspected had dirty heads. Re-inspection of the defaulters at frequent intervals throughout the year revealed that from 46% to 26% of these girls remained unclean.

In the second girls school referred to, the number of girls with dirty heads varied from 7.5% out of 185 girls inspected in January, to 15.2% in November when 230 girls were inspected. Re-inspection of defaulters showed that as many as 44% remained unclean.

In the third senior girls school, 12% of 134 girls inspected in January were unclean. In August, of 227 girls 20% had dirty heads.

At re-inspections 44% of those were still not free from nits or lice.

In an infants school, at one time the worst black spot in the borough, the percentage of boys with dirty heads varied from 1.4% to 5.5%, of girls from 7.5% to 14%. It is some satisfaction to record that there is a definite improvement in this particular school.

In a second infants school, 33% of the girls had dirty heads, at a second inspection of the whole school carried out within a few weeks, 25% of the girls were still dirty.

In the junior mixed school referred from in my last year's report, from 0.5% to 1.6% of the boys were dirty, and from 15% to 21% of the girls, a state of affairs little different from what it was in the previous year.

A total of 122,448 cleanliness inspections were made in the schools during the year, 121,504 of which were made by the two school nurses specially appointed for the purpose.

## 5 PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

I am indebted to Mr. Spears and Miss Dawson, organisers of Physical Training, for the following interesting reports.

Mr. Spears writes: "The physical development of the growing child is not solely a matter of exercise however scientifically applied. Rather is it a combination of factors whose interdependence is so close that all are essential in securing optimum growth and development. Chief amongst those factors will be nutrition, exercise (preferably outdoor), rest and sleep. It is therefore with no little satisfaction that the teaching profession views the expansion of the school meals service, and it may not be too much to hope that as a result the physique and all-round development of children will reach a new high level.

"Although the boys' departments have passed through another year with depleted staffs, the physical training has kept up a very satisfactory standard, and once again tribute must be paid to women teachers who are responsible for the boys' work. They have endeavoured with marked success to continue those types of activity most suited to boys.

"Unfortunately where staffing problems are most acute there has been an unavoidable reduction in the time devoted to physical exercise below the minimum recommended by the Ministry.

"A number of senior departments now have the House system functioning to good effect. Inter-house competitions in football, cricket and athletics are a definite encouragement to better standards in those departments. The wider inclusion in the schools of inter-house gymnastic competitions might well be considered when the teachers return from the Forces.

"Instruction in swimming and life-saving has been well up to the usual standard, and good results have been recorded. We have again had the assistance of the Baths Superintendent and his Staff with the teaching of boys' classes where no teacher was available or qualified to instruct in swimming. This arrangement has ensured that all schools have continued with swimming lessons through the war, and the co-operation of Mr. Wearing has been much appreciated.

“Owing to the illness of the Hon. Secretary of the Schools Swimming and Life-Saving Association it will only be possible to include the figures for life-saving awards in this year’s report.”

These are as follows—

			<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	
Bronze Medallion . .	..	..	11	5	
Intermediate Certificate	..	..	33	26	
Elementary	„	..	59	76	
			<hr/>	<hr/>	
			103	107	Total 210
			<hr/>	<hr/>	
(1943)	..	..	100	75	„ 175

Miss Dawson writes: “The standard of physical education on the girls’ side is being maintained generally despite staffing changes and difficulties with regard to equipment, etc. The partial replacement of P.T. clothing and footwear is being tackled with the help of domestic subject teachers, to whom our thanks are due.

“Senior school departments met at Easter for an inter-schools netball tournament which was much enjoyed by the teams taking part. At the end of the summer term, the schools met again for a rounders’ tournament, where the standard of play was higher than for some years.

“Swimming is improving steadily as will be seen from the figures of the Life-Saving Society’s awards—which show that the number of girls obtaining the Elementary Certificate is double that of last year. As this test is usually taken during the first year in the senior school, it bodes well for the future. In this connection it should be mentioned that a scholar who passed her Elementary Certificate in July was instrumental in saving life in August, and has gained a parchment certificate from the Royal Humane Society.

“A meeting for mothers of central school girls was well attended, and proved of practical value in gaining the parents’ co-operation and interest in the school’s effort to aid their daughters’ health and development.



“Classes in evening institutes have continued, and adult classes in several branches of physical recreation for older women have proved very popular. The women look on these classes as a break from household routine, or war jobs, and a visit paid to them impresses one with the tremendous enjoyment they derive therefrom.”

## **6. PROVISION OF MEALS AND MILK FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.**

The following report on the Provision of Meals and Milk for school children has been very kindly supplied by Mrs. D. M. Curtis, School Meals Organiser, to whom we are greatly indebted for her valuable co-operation and for the very keen interest which she takes in the feeding of the school child. The improvement in the nutritive values and appetising characters of the school meals is proving of great benefit to the school child.

“During 1944, the expansion of the School Meals Service, foreshadowed in last year’s report, had made excellent progress and three Central Kitchens, each with the capacity of providing 1,000 meals daily, are in operation. In addition, there are seven school canteens which have been in existence for some time and cook and serve meals on their own premises. These supply the balance making a total during December of 3,800 dinners provided daily. These ‘school canteens’ are open on Saturday and during school holidays to all children whose own school may be closed. This arrangement ensures that all children, including necessitous ones who receive their meals free of charge, can always obtain a good midday meal.

“With the completion of the necessary sculleries and the delivery of dining equipment, 38 school departments are now having meals on their own premises. Part time workers are employed for preparing and clearing the dining rooms and for serving the dinners but the supervision of the children remains in the hands of the teaching staff. Apart from the physical benefit to the children from well balanced meals, valuable social training is given and a tribute must be paid to the enthusiasm and devotion of the teachers who voluntarily undertake these duties during their midday dinner period.

“The charge for each dinner (which covers only the cost of food) remains at 5d. and it is hoped to avoid a further rise which might result in a decline in numbers. Menus throughout the town are based on the nutritional standards of the Ministry of Education and as varied as possible under present difficulties.



“The total number of dinners supplied during the year was 477,737 (373,579 for payment and 104,158 free) as against a total in 1943 of 380,206 (308,627 for payment and 71,579 free).

“Another Central Kitchen with a capacity of 1,500 meals per day will shortly be put in hand. A further expansion of the Service, including new School Kitchens with attached dining rooms, is being planned in accordance with a recent memorandum of the Ministry of Education.

“The supply of milk to school children under the “Milk in Schools” scheme has again continued during the year. On November 15, nearly 10,400 children received milk in school, and of these, 535 who were in necessitous circumstances, received it free of charge and the remainder at the special rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per  $\frac{1}{3}$  pint.”

## 7. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

**Diphtheria.** During the year 1136 children under the age of 5 years, and 1610 children between the ages of 5 and 15, a total of 2,746 were immunised against diphtheria.

In addition 876 children received re-inoculations, and 1798 immunised in previous years were found on testing to be Schick negative.

The figures are less than in previous years. Owing to the shortages of medical and nursing staffs, we were unable to complete our programme and a number of schools could not be visited.

It is estimated that at the end of 1944, approximately 58.5% of children under the age of 5 years, and 74.5% of children between the ages of 5 and 15 had been immunised against diphtheria.

Out of a total of 76 cases notified during the year, 46 were children between the ages of 5 and 15 years, as compared with 114 out of 196 cases in 1943. The cases notified included two children who had been previously immunised approximately 18 months and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years previously. Three children of school age died from the disease, none of these had been previously immunised.

**Scarlet Fever.** 74 cases of Scarlet Fever occurred amongst school children out of a total of 127 cases notified to the Health Department. These figures show a considerable reduction on those for the previous year when the corresponding figures were 148 and 268 respectively. The number of cases of Scarlet Fever occurring and also the total number notified amongst school children is the lowest since 1930.

**Measles.** Cases of Measles kept occurring during the whole of the year, but it was not until the end of November that the disease showed any signs of spreading, 59 cases occurring amongst school children during the first nine months of the year, and 67 cases during the last quarter. A total of 278 cases were notified during the year, 126 amongst school children. There were no deaths amongst children of school age.

**Whooping Cough.** There were 85 cases of Whooping Cough amongst school children out of a total of 312 notified cases. The majority of these cases occurred during the first half of the year. There were no deaths amongst school children.

## 8. DENTAL TREATMENT.

The following report upon the work of the School Dental Service has been supplied by Mr. N. L. Cookson, Senior Dental Surgeon:—

“Of importance in a school dental report is the percentage acceptance rate for the year, this being an indication of the belief held by parents in the importance of dental treatment as a necessary adjunct to the maintenance of the health of the school child. This year 86% of the inspected children have accepted treatment. This is the sixth consecutive year that the acceptance rate has been over 80%. This excellent response on the part of parents and children has provided a continuous flow of work, greater than can be accomplished by the existing dental staff and consequently it has not been possible to satisfy completely the dental requirements of the school population.

“During the year 10,387 children or 64% of the school population have been inspected and so given the opportunity to accept dental treatment. An analysis of the inspection figures is encouraging in that it reveals that the total number of children requiring treatment is 5% less than last year: and what is even more encouraging is the fact that 74% of children under 5 years of age have been found to have perfect dentition and to require no treatment. These children must be regarded as ‘war babies’ and it is not until recently that they have come within the purview of the school dental officers; but there is no doubt that the number of these children that were examined in 1944 provides ample proof of their exceptional dental health.

“It may be rather premature to form definite conclusions as to the reasons for this general improvement, but improvement in the dental

state of young children has been noted in other parts of the country, and I take the liberty to quote from the report of a School Dental Officer in a northern borough as the opinions expressed are similar to my own. 'One might suggest,' he writes, 'that this is partly due to the reduction in sweets available to young children, to the improvement in the nutritional quality of war-time bread, and to the large increase in the consumption of vegetables.'

"The treatment figures for 1944 indicate no radical change in the dental situation which has existed during the previous war years. Compared with last year there has been a slight decrease in extractions, but this has been offset by an increase in the number of fillings inserted. This slight change in favour of conservation is welcome as it is of the utmost importance that, with regard to permanent teeth, time should be devoted to fillings rather than to extractions. By avoiding all encroachment upon 'filling' time this objective has been achieved and although 1,214 permanent teeth were extracted, over 2,000 permanent fillings were inserted.

"This year only 511 cases have attended for treatment because of pain, and thus it has been possible to extract painful teeth during routine sessions, without any undue interference with routine work. In 1939, no less than 1,635 cases of toothache were treated, so that the number treated during 1944 shows a great and welcome improvement.

"The important effects of the year's dental policy can be summarized by recording that the large number of dental inspections has helped to maintain parental interest in the dental health of the school child; the organisation of routine extractions has prevented the extension of pain and oral sepsis, and the selection of suitable children for conservative treatment has been responsible for the insertion of the maximum number of permanent fillings."

## 9. CONCLUSION.

In conclusion I desire to express my thanks to the Director of Education and his staff for the close co-operation and harmonious working between our departments, and also to the Head Teachers for their help during a rather difficult year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES A. M. CLARK,

School Medical Officer.



**Table I**

NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED YEAR ENDED  
31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 1944

A. ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Number of Code Group Inspections—

Entrants	...	...	...	...	...	2,469
Second Age Group			...	...	...	1,624
Third Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	507
Number of other Routine Inspections					...	—
						———— Total 4,600

B. OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections and Re-inspections ... ... 4,699

**Table II**

CLASSIFICATION OF THE NUTRITION OF CHILDREN INSPECTED DURING  
THE YEAR IN THE ROUTINE AGE GROUPS

Number of children inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly subnormal)		D (Bad)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
4600	704	15.32	3528	76.70	365	7.93	3	0.07

**Table III**

RETURN OF DEFECTS TREATED DURING THE YEAR  
Group I—Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see  
Table V).

Total number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year under the Authority's Scheme	...	...	...	...	4,301
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**Table III**—continued

GROUP II—Defective Vision and Squint (excluding Minor Eye Defects, treated as Minor Ailments—Group I).

Defect or Disease	No. of defects dealt with under the Authority's Scheme	Under the Authority's Scheme No. of children for whom spectacles were	
		Prescribed	Obtained
Errors of Refraction (including Squint) ...	311	301	301

GROUP III—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

Received operative treatment	...	...	...	94
Received other forms of treatment	...	...	...	—
				—
Total number treated	...	...	...	94
				—

**Table IV**

### DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

(1) Number of Children who were—					Totals
(a) Inspected by the Dentist :					
Routine Age Groups 4-16	...	...	9,876		
Specials	...	...	511		
			————		10,387
(b) Found to require treatment	..	...			7,148
(c) Actually treated	...	...	...	...	4,767
(2) Half-days devoted to—					
Inspection	...	...	...	...	35
Treatment	...	...	...	...	615
				————	650
(3) Attendances made by the Children for treatment					6,158

Table IV—continued

(4) Fillings—					
Permanent Teeth	..	..	..	2,004	
Temporary Teeth	..	..	..	58	
				————	2,062
(5) Extractions—					
Permanent Teeth	..	..	..	1,216	
Temporary Teeth	..	..	..	9,098	
				————	10,314
(6) Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions .. .. .					
					3,822
(7) Other operations—					
Permanent Teeth	}		..	..	318
Temporary Teeth					

Table V

## UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS

(i) Average number of Visits per School made during the year by the School Nurses .. .. .					
					24
(ii) Total number of Examinations of Children in the Schools by the School Nurses .. .. .					
					122,448
(iii) Number of individual Children found unclean ..					
					3,074
(iv) Number of Children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority .. .. .					
					—
(v) Number of cases in which Legal Proceedings were taken—					
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921 .. .. .					—
(b) Under School Attendance By-Law. ..					—

**Table VI**  
**BLIND AND DEAF CHILDREN**

	At a Public Elementary School	At an institution other than a Special School	At no School or Institution	Total not receiving suit- able Education
Blind Children	—	—	—	—
Deaf Children	—	—	—	3

### MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN

No. of children notified during the year to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority under the Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928                      ..      ..      ..      ..      12

### SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

72 pupils at Queen Mary's High School for Girls were also medically inspected during the year. 19 of the pupils examined at the routine inspection were found to have some defect.

